

1700 Region 12  
Sheerness & Sheppey T.G.  
**JOINT DISTRICTS**

of the

**BOROUGH OF QUEENBOROUGH**

the

**URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEERNESS**

and the

**RURAL DISTRICT OF SHEPPEY**

~~~~~  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

for the year

**1954**

~~~~~  
Frank Hauxwell, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
(Retired 31st January, 1955)

**J. T. MURPHY, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.**



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# ISLE OF SHEPPEY

(Medical Officer of Health)

## JOINT COMMITTEE

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**1954**

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*Chairman :*

H. C. Love

*Members :*

### **Queenborough Town Council :**

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.  
Miss D. L. Wood

### **Sheerness Urban District Council :**

W. R. Ayre  
A. G. Coats, J.P.  
A. R. D. Hammond  
Mrs. E. M. Lifton  
Mrs. M. Pearce

### **Sheppey Rural District Council :**

H. C. Love  
T. H. Dale

*Clerk to the Committee :*

J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor

*Medical Officer of Health :*

Frank Hauxwell, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
(Retired 31st January, 1955)

J. T. Murphy, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.  
(From 1st February, 1955)

*Public Health Department Staff :*

Mr. F. J. Pankhurst, Chief Clerk  
Miss M. H. Leader

Public Health Department,  
Trinity Road,  
Sheerness

**To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Sheppey  
Joint (Medical Officer of Health) Committee**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith reports on the health of the three constituent authorities of the Isle of Sheppey for the year 1954.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Isle of Sheppey was 28,340, 346 lower than the 1951 estimate, but 24 more than the Census figure.

The Birth Rate for the Island was 16.3 per 1,000 population, 0.3 higher than the previous year. Following the very high rates recorded immediately after the war, there was a sharp decline in the Birth Rate for several years but since 1951 it has been more stable and during the past 5 years the number of births recorded annually has varied only between 458 and 463.

The Death Rate for 1954 was 11.3, 0.5 higher than the year before, but the Infant Mortality Rate dropped to 28 and Table II shows how this rate is continuing to fall, the period 1941-50 averaging 33.7 and the 4 years 1951-54 2.8 less.

The infectious disease table shows only one outstanding feature, the prevalence of Whooping Cough during the year. The 273 cases recorded is the highest since this disease was made notifiable in 1940.

Whooping Cough is a distressing illness—the majority of the patients are of pre-school age and although no deaths have been ascribed to this during the year there is an appreciable amount of family upset, especially in families with two or more young children, causing sleepless disturbed nights for the whole household. It is definitely established

that immunisation does provide a large measure of protection and vaccinated children who develop Whooping Cough have less severe attacks.

Immunisation is now carried out to a large extent in association with Diphtheria prophylaxis and the recent vaccines, which are given subcutaneously, do not cause the severe reactions which were noted with the intramuscular injections.

The Tuberculosis table shows that although during the period 1941-50 the incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis rose sharply, during the 4 years ending 1954 there has been a decline in the number of new cases notified on the Island. This decline however affects only Queenborough and Sheerness and unfortunately the case rate in the Rural District remains high. The death rates from this disease again show the very big decrease that has taken place even during the years that the case rate increased.

Dr. Frank Hauxwell was your Medical Officer of Health for 1954 and this report is an account of the work carried out by his department during the year. I would like to thank the Sanitary Inspectors for their help in its preparation and specially Mr. Pankhurst, Chief Clerk in the office, who has researched, prepared and finally submitted to me for digestion the many detailed items.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

John T. Murphy,

Medical Officer of Health.



# VITAL STATISTICS

Table I shows the chief Vital Statistics for the Island for the past five years and Table II shows the birth and mortality rates for 10 year periods since 1901 and the period 1951-1954.

TABLE I

	Year	Estimated Population	Live Births			Deaths		Infant Deaths under 1 year		
			Total	Illegitimate and Rate per cent.	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	Total	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population	Total	Illegitimate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births
Queenborough M.B.	1950	3,070	39	2 or 5.1%	12.7	31	10.1	1	0	25.6
	1951	3,111	51	2 or 3.9%	16.4	23	7.4	0	0	0.0
	1952	3,157	51	1 or 2.0%	16.2	34	10.8	2	0	39.2
	1953	3,215	55	3 or 5.5%	17.1	31	9.6	1	0	18.2
	1954	3,230	55	3 or 5.5%	17.0	29	9.0	2	0	36.4
Sheerness U.D.	1950	16,180	260	18 or 6.9%	16.0	199	12.3	5	0	19.2
	1951	17,590	261	20 or 7.6%	14.8	198	11.2	13	0	49.8
	1952	16,910	277	15 or 5.4%	16.4	148	8.8	5	0	18.1
	1953	16,270	282	19 or 6.7%	17.3	188	11.5	12	1	42.5
	1954	15,810	275	17 or 6.2%	17.4	186	11.7	9	1	32.7
Sheppey R.D.	1950	8,837	159	7 or 4.4%	17.9	99	11.2	4	0	25.1
	1951	9,104	150	5 or 3.3%	16.4	105	11.5	3	0	20.0
	1952	9,144	130	8 or 6.2%	14.2	102	11.2	5	0	38.5
	1953	9,201	122	11 or 9.0%	13.3	91	9.9	3	1	24.6
	1954	9,300	133	10 or 7.5%	14.3	106	11.4	2	2	15.0
Isle of Sheppey	1950	28,087	458	27 or 5.8%	16.3	329	11.7	10	0	21.8
	1951	29,805	462	27 or 5.8%	15.5	326	10.9	16	0	34.6
	1952	29,211	458	24 or 5.2%	15.7	284	9.7	12	0	26.2
	1953	28,686	459	33 or 7.1%	16.0	310	10.8	16	2	34.8



TABLE II

	Period	Birth Rate	Illegitimate % of live Births	Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births
Queen- rough M.B.	1901-1910	31.8	NK	12.5	79.6
	1911-1920	26.6	2.7	9.8	86.8
	1921-1930	18.0	2.6	8.5	78.7
	1931-1940	17.3	4.2	9.6	48.7
	1941-1950	22.3	5.3	10.5	37.8
	1951-1954	16.6	4.2	9.2	23.6
erness J.D.	1901-1910	23.0	NK	10.7	115.5
	1911-1920	24.5	2.1	13.3	90.2
	1921-1930	18.4	2.5	11.1	60.2
	1931-1940	13.8	4.1	11.7	49.9
	1941-1950	20.0	6.7	13.0	32.2
	1951-1954	16.4	6.5	10.8	35.6
ppey J.D.	1925-1930	15.6	3.7	9.1	46.8
	1931-1940	15.7	3.4	10.3	32.0
	1941-1950	22.2	6.7	11.0	34.8
	1951-1954	14.5	6.3	11.0	24.3
of ppey	1901-1910	23.8	NK	10.9	111.2
	1911-1920	24.8	2.2	12.7	89.6
	1921-1930	17.9	2.7	10.4	61.0
	1931-1940	14.7	3.9	11.1	44.5
	1941-1950	21.2	6.5	12.0	33.7
	1951-1954	15.9	6.2	10.7	30.9

## MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

Appended is a Table showing the deaths from the above during the past five years with age and sex distribution. There has recently been considerable world-wide discussion on the increased incidence of neoplasms of the lung and bronchus, various causes have been attributed without any conclusive evidence. However, it is noted that males are predominantly affected and this is borne out in the local figures. Presumably better facilities for accurate diagnosis will be responsible for some increase in the numbers but this again would not be the whole explanation. In your local figures there does not appear any evidence pointing to an occupational risk.

### TABLE III

Year	30-40		40-50		50-60		60-70		70-80		80-90		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1950	-	-	2	-	3	-	3	-	1	1	1	-	10	1
1951	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	-
1952	1	-	2	-	3	-	2	-	2	1	-	-	10	1
1953	-	-	1	1	5	-	4	1	2	-	1	-	13	2
1954	-	-	1	-	1	-	8	2	2	-	-	-	12	2
Totals	1	-	6	1	13	-	18	3	8	2	2	-	48	6

# NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table IV shows the incidence of infectious disease on the Island during the past 5 years.

TABLE IV

		Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Para. Ac. Poliomyelitis Non-Para.	Ac. Encephalitis	Dysentery	Malaria	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Typhoid
en- rough B. ...	1950	20	60	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1951	-	9	-	70	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1952	-	-	-	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1953	-	1	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1954	1	51	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
rness D. ...	1950	22	91	-	4	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1951	11	69	-	398	9	3	-	-	9	1	1	-	-
	1952	14	4	-	7	3	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1953	7	32	-	34	5	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	1954	6	107	-	3	4	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
opey D. ...	1950	27	87	-	13	15	5	-	2	-	2	1	-	-
	1951	12	71	-	245	18	2	-	1	1	-	1	2	-
	1952	7	33	-	33	21	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
	1953	9	29	-	115	9	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1954	5	115	-	6	10	5	-	-	-	-	1	14	-
of heppey	1950	69	238	-	20	18	12	-	2	-	2	1	-	-
	1951	23	149	-	713	28	6	1	-	1	9	1	2	-
	1952	21	37	-	123	24	10	2	1	-	-	-	2	-
	1953	16	62	-	159	14	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
	1954	12	273	-	11	14	7	-	-	1	-	2	14	1

## TUBERCULOSIS

Table V shows the case rates and death rates of Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population for 5-year periods since 1926 and for the 4-year period 1951-1954.

### TABLE V

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Case	Rate	Death Rate	Case	Rate	Death Rate
<b>Queenborough M.B.</b>						
1926-1930		1.40	0.89		0.25	0.00
1931-1935		1.13	0.66		0.06	0.00
1936-1940		0.61	0.41		0.06	0.00
1941-1945		0.96	0.88		0.07	0.14
1946-1950		1.07	0.47		0.06	0.00
1951-1954		0.79	0.16		0.08	0.08
<b>Sheerness U.D.</b>						
1926-1930		1.12	0.80		0.28	0.04
1931-1935		0.83	0.61		0.24	0.12
1936-1940		0.65	0.43		0.18	0.05
1941-1945		0.55	0.49		0.09	0.04
1946-1950		0.93	0.41		0.10	0.00
1951-1954		0.60	0.23		0.08	0.06
<b>Sheppey R.D.</b>						
1926-1930		1.37	0.66		0.44	0.11
1931-1935		0.88	0.75		0.36	0.09
1936-1940		0.29	0.31		0.12	0.02
1941-1945		0.61	0.42		0.19	0.05
1946-1950		0.94	0.32		0.20	0.07
1951-1954		0.95	0.16		0.22	0.03
<b>Isle of Sheppey</b>						
1926-1930		1.22	0.80		0.31	0.05
1931-1935		0.88	0.65		0.26	0.10
1936-1940		0.54	0.40		0.15	0.03
1941-1945		0.62	0.51		0.12	0.06
1946-1950		0.95	0.39		0.13	0.02
1951-1954		0.73	0.20		0.12	0.05

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the medical inspection of school children on the Island during 1954 :—

(a) Number of inspections :

(i) Periodic :

Entrants ... ..	432
Second age group ...	315
Third age group ...	268
Others ... ..	559

(ii) Special Inspections ... .. 65

(iii) Re-inspections ... .. 871

(b) Number found to require treatment :

Entrants ... ..	33
Second age group ...	64
Third age group ...	59
Other periodic inspections	78

(c) Return of defects found by medical inspection :

Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
	No. of Defects		No. of Defects	
	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
...	2	22	—	2
(a) Vision .. ..	151	40	15	2
(b) Squint .. ..	11	7	2	—
(c) Other .. ..	1	12	1	1
(a) Hearing .. ..	2	21	—	—
(b) Otitis Media ..	1	17	—	—
(c) Other .. ..	2	4	—	—
or Throat .. ..	24	99	5	2
h .. ..	5	14	2	2
cal Glands .. ..	1	75	—	—
and Circulation ..	—	23	—	1
.. ..	—	41	1	1
opment (a) Hernia ..	3	6	—	—
(b) Other .. ..	2	8	—	2
paedic (a) Posture ..	3	25	—	3
(b) Flat Foot .. ..	10	37	—	—
(c) Other .. ..	17	49	1	2
us system (a) Epilepsy ..	—	1	—	—
(b) Other .. ..	—	6	1	2
ological (a) Development ..	2	11	2	1
(b) Stability .. ..	2	12	1	1
.. ..	6	26	1	5
Total: .. ..	245	556	32	27

(d) Classification of general health of pupils inspected during the year :—

Age Groups	Number of pupils inspected	" A " (Good)		" B " (Fair)		" C " (Poor)	
		No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2
Entrants	432	220	50.9(27.6)	199	46.1(66.0)	13	3.0(6.4)
Second ..	315	123	39.0(31.3)	181	57.5(62.7)	11	3.5(6.0)
Third ..	268	140	52.3(41.1)	126	47.0(54.7)	2	0.7(4.2)
Others ..	559	301	53.9(46.4)	249	44.5(50.3)	9	1.6(3.3)
Totals ..	1574	784	49.8(35.0)	755	48.0(59.8)	35	2.2(5.2)

(e) Dental Inspections and Treatment :

Number of pupils inspected by the Authority  
Dental Officer :

(i) Periodic age groups ... ..	1,482
(ii) Specials ... ..	180
Number found to require treatment	708
Number actually treated ... ..	385

(f) Infestation with Vermin :

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons ... ..	10,189
(ii) Number of pupils found to be infested ... ..	104
(iii) Number in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2) Education Act, 1944) ... ..	35

# Queenborough Town Council

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1954

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*Mayor :*

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.

*Deputy-Mayor :*

Alderman E. G. Dines

*Aldermen :*

Mrs. M. Dobner                      E. Thompson

*Councillors :*

S. Adams  
Mrs. D. L. Anderson  
W. J. Booth  
S. J. W. Byrne  
F. E. Cackett  
D. Cunningham  
H. G. Harris  
S. Houldershaw  
G. H. Lerpiniere  
R. D. Sharrock  
T. G. Thomas  
\*Miss D. L. Wood

\* Chairman of Health Committee

*Town Clerk :*

F. Marshall

*Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :*

W. F. Dodds



Public Health Department,  
Trinity Road,  
Sheerne

*To the Queenborough Town Council*

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Queenborough during the year 1954.

So far as Births and Deaths were concerned, there was very little difference between 1954 and 1953, the same number of births being registered while deaths decreased by one. The Crude Birth Rate was 17.0 per 1,000 population as compared with 17.1 in 1953 giving a Corrected Rate for purpose of comparison of 17.5. The Birth Rate for England and Wales was 15.2.

The Crude Death Rate was 9.0 (9.6 in 1953) and the Corrected Rate was 9.3, while for England and Wales the rate was 11.3.

There were two infant deaths under one year of age, one more than the previous year and this gives a rate of 36.4 per 1,000 live births. The corresponding rate for the whole country was 25.5, a new low record. With a small population this rate naturally varies considerably from year to year but the average over the past ten years does not reveal the decline in this rate that should be expected.

Of the 55 cases of infectious disease that occurred during the year, 51 were Whooping Cough, and although there were more cases of this disease in the year 1950, nevertheless the number is very many more than usual. One case of Scarlet Fever occurred and this was the first to be notified in Queenborough since 1950, and for the first time since 1935 a case of Typhoid was notified. Only 2 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered and it is very satisfactory to note that no deaths occurred from this disease for the second successive year.

Routine bacteriological examinations of the water supply showed that the improvement in the purity of the water had been maintained since the installation of the new siphon pump.

I should like to thank Mr. Dodds for his assistance in preparing this Report and I am sure that Dr. Hauxwell would also wish me to express his thanks for the help given him during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY,

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION I

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

#### AREA IN ACRES

Land covered by water .....	5	}	1,103
Land .....	1098		

A further 1,272 acres consists of 610 acres of foreshore and 662 acres subject to tidal waters and included in this area is the harbour which is owned by the Council.

#### POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar-General for  
mid-1954 ... .. 3,230

This figure is 15 more than the 1953 estimate. The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 26.

#### NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

986. This is 23 more than last year.

#### RATEABLE VALUE

£21,019. This is an increase of £1,454 over the 1953 figure.

#### SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE

£77. This is an increase of £4.

## SECTION II

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### 1. BIRTHS

##### (a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	35 (30)	17 (22)	52 (52)
Illegitimate .....	— (1)	3 (2)	3 (3)
Totals .....	35 (31)	20 (24)	55 (55)

##### (b) Birth Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population .....	17.0 (17.0)
Corrected rate .....	17.5 (17.5)
Rate for England and Wales .....	15.2 (15.2)

##### (c) Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	1 (-)	1 (1)	2 (1)
Illegitimate .....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

The number of births recorded in 1954 was 55, the same as in the previous year, giving a birth rate of 17.0 per 1,000 the population. The corrected rate, used for purposes of comparison, was 17.5 whilst the rate for England and Wales was 15.2.

Three of the births were illegitimate, 5.5% of the total and these figures are identical with 1953.

Two still-births were registered or 3.5% of the total live and still births as compared with 1.8% the previous year.

#### 2. DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths from all causes was 10, giving a Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population of 9.0 compared with 9.6 in 1953, and a Corrected Rate of 9.3. The rate for England and Wales was 11.3.

(b) The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred :—

Figures in brackets refer to 1953

TABLE I

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 years and over
es	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	4	7	2
ales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	1	2

The average age at death was 66.6, being 63.9 for the males and 71.6 for the females. The oldest person dying was female aged 100. The averages for 1953 were 63.7 for the total, 61.8 for males and 66.6 for females.

(c) The following table shows the number of deaths as allocated to the area by the Registrar-General and classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death.

TABLE II

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
2 Tuberculosis, other .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
3 Syphilitic disease .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
4 Diphtheria .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
5 Whooping Cough .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
6 Meningococcal infections .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
7 Acute poliomyelitis .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
8 Measles .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	1 (2)	— (—)	1 (—)
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast .. ..	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3 (—)	1 (4)	4 (—)
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
16 Diabetes .. ..	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	— (—)	6 (3)	6 (—)
18 Coronary disease, angina .. ..	2 (4)	1 (—)	3 (—)
19 Hypertension with heart disease ..	1 (—)	— (1)	1 (—)
20 Other heart disease .. ..	5 (2)	1 (2)	6 (—)
21 Other circulatory disease .. ..	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)
22 Influenza .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
23 Pneumonia .. ..	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)
24 Bronchitis .. ..	— (4)	— (—)	— (—)
25 Other diseases of respiratory system ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	1 (—)	— (1)	1 (—)
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
28 Nephritis and nephrosis .. ..	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)
29 Hyperplasia of prostate .. ..	1 (1)	— (—)	1 (—)
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
31 Congenital malformations .. ..	1 (1)	— (—)	1 (—)
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	3 (2)	— (—)	3 (—)
33 Motor vehicle accidents .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
34 All other accidents .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
35 Suicide .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
36 Homicide and operations of war ..	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
All causes .. ..	19 (19)	10 (12)	29 (—)

### 3. INFANT MORTALITY

There were two infant deaths during the year as compared with one in 1953. This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 36.4 per 1,000 births. This rate fluctuates considerably in a small district and a truer picture is obtained by referring to the average over the past 10 years, but as this average is 39.1 and has been around that figure for several years, some consolation can be derived from it. The rate for England and Wales in 1954 set up a new low record with 25.5.

Details of the deaths are given in the following table

TABLE III

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Spina bifida with meningocele. Congenital hydrocephalus ..	M	40 min.	Hospital	Hospital
Immaturity .. ..	M	2 days	Hospital	Hospital

## SECTION III

## INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

## THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

Fifty-five cases of infectious disease were notified during 1954 as compared with 11 in 1953. Fifty-one of these were Whooping Cough which is very much above the average for the Borough. One case of Scarlet Fever occurred, the first since 1950, and Measles was again almost entirely absent, only 2 cases being notified.

One case of Typhoid occurred during the month of August. This was a girl of 11 years living with her grandmother. As both the grandmother and the patient had returned from a month's visit in Somerset only three weeks before the patient took ill, it was at first thought that the infection had been contracted in Somerset. In the course of investigations carried out however, it was found that the grandmother was a carrier although so far as she knew she had never had the disease. The patient was removed to hospital and made a good recovery. The last case of Typhoid recorded in the Borough was in 1935.

The total number of cases notified, admissions to hospital and total deaths from each disease as shown in the Registrar-General's classification of deaths are given in Table IV below :—



TABLE IV

Disease	Total	Total (1953)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	1	( )	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough .. .. .	51	(1)	27	24	4	-
Diphtheria .. .. .	-	( )	-	-	-	-
Measles .. .. .	2	(10)	2	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) .. .. .	-	( )	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas .. .. .	-	( )	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	-	( )	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis—Para. .. .. .	-	( )	-	-	-	-
Non-Para .. .. .	-	( )	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis—Infective .. .. .	-	( )	-	-	-	-
Post-infectious .. .. .	-	( )	-	-	-	-
Dysentery .. .. .	-	( )	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	-	( )	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	-	( )	-	-	-	-
Smallpox .. .. .	-	( )	-	-	-	-
Typhoid .. .. .	1	(-)	-	1	1	-
Malaria .. .. .	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning .. .. .	-	( )	-	-	-	-
Totals .. .. .	55	(11)	30	25	5	-

2. Table V below shows the age distribution of cases of infectious disease notified.

TABLE V

	At all ages	Age groups							
		Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough .. .. .	51	2	7	10	30	2	-	-	-
Measles .. .. .	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid .. .. .	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals .. .. .	55	3	8	10	31	3	-	-	-



## TUBERCULOSIS

Two new notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were received during the year and this figure is slightly below the average. The two cases were a boy of 6 years and a girl of 7. For the second successive year no deaths were recorded.

No new cases of the non-pulmonary form of this disease were notified and no deaths occurred.

Table VI gives a summary of cases on the Tuberculosis register.

TABLE VI

### SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January, 1954 ..	16	12	3		31
New notifications .. .. .	1	1	-	-	2
Other additions to register .. ..	-	1	-	-	1
Deaths during year .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-
Other removals from register ..	-	-	-	-	
Number of cases remaining on Register, 31st Dec., 1954 ..	17	14	3	-	34

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age.

TABLE VII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1954	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1954	Total number Immunised at end of 1954
1954	7	—	7
1953	43	—	45
1952	7	—	42
1951	2	—	41
1950	2	—	44
1949	—	6	44
1948	—	1	54
1947	—	2	49
1946	1	1	30
1945	—	1	44
1944	—	—	51
1943	—	—	32
1942	—	—	55
1941	—	—	42
1940	—	—	36
Totals	62	11	616

A large proportion of children born in 1954 would be of age for immunisation but the 5-year period from 1950 to 1953 shows approximately 87% of children immunised.

## 5 VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during 1954 contained in the following table :—

TABLE VIII

Age group	Primary Vaccinations	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 ..	16 (20)	— (—)
1 to 4 .. ..	11 (13)	— (—)
5 to 14 .. ..	2 ( 3)	1 ( 3)
15 and over ..	8 ( 7)	4 ( 8)
Totals ..	37 (43)	5 (11)

## SECTION IV

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

### AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### WATER SUPPLY

(a) The supply of water from the two deep wells at Rushenden has continued to be adequate.

The results of twelve untreated samples of water taken during the year were all very satisfactory, whilst of twenty-nine treated samples taken from the reservoir and domestic taps, twenty-seven were very good and only two showed very slight but not serious contamination.

(b) The total consumption of water during the year was 3,959,000 gallons of which 8,539,000 were used for trade purposes and 25,420,000 for domestic purposes. This is a total daily average consumption of 28.8 gallons per head of the population and a domestic consumption of 21.6 gallons.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No additions or improvements were made to the sewerage system.

Sewage flows by gravitation to two main outfalls in South Street and at the Chalk Wharf. It is stored at these points and released with the ebb tide.

The only houses in the Borough not on main drainage are at Pier Cottages, about half-a-mile from the town, where 3 houses are served by 3 cesspools.

#### DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on a site near Pier Cottages. Applications of a tip dressing to prevent flies breeding are made monthly and rodents are controlled by quarterly baiting.

#### SCHOOLS SANITATION

The general sanitary arrangements at the Schools have on all occasions been satisfactory.

## 5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are two public conveniences, both for males only, situated in South Street and Railway Terrace.

## 6. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) Two rooms were disinfected after infectious diseases.

(b) Eight rooms in two houses were treated for bed bugs and one house for cockroaches.

## 7. MOSQUITO CONTROL

Spraying of ditches for the suppression of mosquito breeding was continued during the year at regular intervals. No serious complaints of nuisance were received.

## 8. RODENT CONTROL

Eleven complaints were received and dealt with by the local authority. The Sheppey Glue & Chemical Works employ their own operator and regular treatment is carried out. Routine test baiting of the sewers in the Borough during April showed no infestations.

## 9. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

## 10. INSPECTIONS, NUISANCES AND DEFECTS

Appendix A gives details of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector, while Appendix B shows details of nuisances and defects remedied or abated.

## SECTION V

### HOUSING

The following figures show building progress during 1954 and since the end of the war :—

	During 1954	Total built since the war
Council houses :		
Completed ... ..	20	160
Under construction ...	24	—
Private enterprise :		
Completed ... ..	1	5
Under construction ...	—	—

The 20 houses completed during the year were all of 3-B.R. non-parlour type. The following is an analysis of the houses owned by the Council :—

	Pre-war	Post-war	Total
ungalows ... ..	8	6	14
n-parlour 2-B.R. ... ..	—	40	40
n-parlour 3-B.R. ... ..	63	24	87
lour 2-B.R. ... ..	—	6	6
lour 3-B.R. ... ..	9	84	93

At the end of 1954 there were still 131 applicants on the Council's waiting list. The following are details :—

Queenborough residents in rooms .....	43
Queenborough residents in flats or houses .....	35
Resident outside Queenborough in rooms .....	29
Resident outside Queenborough in flats or houses ...	24

Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing is shown below :—

Inspection of dwelling-houses during 1954—

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... .. 39
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 60
2. Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. 4
3. Number of houses (excluding (2) above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ... .. 35

Remedy of defects without service of formal notice—

Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by local authority	33
--	----

- C. Action under Statutory Powers during the year—
1. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... .. N
  2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
    - (a) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served ... ..
    - (b) Number in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice ... ..
  3. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... .. N
  4. Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
    - (a) Number of houses in respect of which Clearance Orders made and approved (approval 14/1/55) ... ..
- D. Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 :—
1. Number of applications for Certificate of Disrepair ... ..
  2. Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued ...
  3. Number of Certificates revoked ... .. N

The four houses mentioned in C.4 were Nos. 1, 3, 5 and West Street, which comprised the West Street Clearance Order. No houses were actually demolished during the year.

## SECTION VI

### FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION

#### 1. MILK

There are no producers in the district but ten distributors retail the following designations :—

Pasteurised	....	...	...	...	3
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	2
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	7

#### 2. ICE CREAM

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the Borough. Five premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and retail pre-packed well-known makes. There is also an itinerant vendor who visits the district regularly during summer.



### 3. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Regular inspections of food shops and factory canteens are made. The following foods were found unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered :—

Beef	...	...	...	...	30 lbs.
Ox liver	...	...	...	...	10 lbs.
Tinned meat	...	...	...	...	108 lbs.
Evaporated milk	...	...	...	...	72 pts.
Raisins	...	...	...	...	25 lbs.
Plums	...	...	...	...	6 tins

Condemned meat is stained with naphthalene green and forwarded to the Sheppey Glue Works for processing, whilst tinned and other foods are buried on the Council's tip.

### 4. FOOD PREMISES

(a) The following are premises registered under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, or the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 :—

	Premises	Inspections
Ice Cream, storage and sale	5	20
Sausages, manufacture	3	9
Dairy	1	5

(b) 105 inspections were made of 34 other food premises, an analysis of which by type of business appears below :—

Butchery	4
Grocery	4
General stores	8
Greengrocery	3
Fishmonger	1
Confectionery	2
Baker and confectioner	2
Cafe	2
Club	2
Public house	6

### 5. FISH FRYING

There is only one fish frying establishment and this is always well kept.

### 6. BAKEHOUSES

One of the two bakehouses closed at the end of the year. Both were kept satisfactorily.



## 7. FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938

By courtesy of the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council, I am able to give below the details of samples taken in the Borough during the year :—

Aspirins .....	1	Gin .....	1
Beef, Pork & Tomato Sausage .....	1	Glucose Barleys .....	1
Beef Sausage Meat .....	1	Lemon Cheese .....	1
Bicarbonate of Soda .....	1	Milk .....	1
Chops Sauce .....	1	Pork Sausages .....	1
Coffee & Chicory Essence .....	1	Rum .....	1
Desiccated Coconut .....	1	Stemcol for Coughs .....	1
Devonshire Butter Scotch .....	1	Table Jelly .....	1

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following :—

Beef Sausage Meat—Inferior. Meat 60% SO<sub>2</sub>. 140 p.p.m. (not declared). Retailer cautioned.  
Milk —Inferior. 3.3% deficient in fat. N action. Further samples to be obtained.

## SECTION VII

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ..	—	—	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power) ..	10	77	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	—	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found ... .. ]
3. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111) ... .. ]
- Number of Outworkers ... .. ]

## APPENDIX A

### Visits and re-visits made by the Sanitary Inspector

accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
akehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
ug infested houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
ilthy conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
effective sanitary accommodation				...	...	...	3
effective drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
rainage re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
actories and other premises			...	...	...	...	77
alls and places of entertainment				...	...	...	14
ublic health interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
ovable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
ublic conveniences		...	...	...	...	...	12
ats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
refuse tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
hools	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
ops	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
ables and piggeries		...	...	...	...	...	24
ater sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
ercrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
ectionous disease investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
eat shops and vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
hmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
ocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
teengrocers and fruiterers		...	...	...	...	...	3
iries and milk shops		...	...	...	...	...	12
Cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
taurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
ensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
cellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	69

## APPENDIX B

### Nuisances and Defects remedied

Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...
Drainage reconstructed	...	...	...	...
Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...	...
Waste pipes repaired or trapped	...	...	...	...
Rain water pipes and eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	...
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...
Fireplaces and stoves repaired	...	...	...	...
Water supplies, defects remedied	...	...	...	...
Refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...	...
Accumulations of refuse abated	...	...	...	...
Keeping of animals abated	...	...	...	...
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...

# Sheerness Urban District Council

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**1954**

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*Chairman :*

J. G. Ward, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman :*

Mrs. E. M. Lifton

*Councillors :*

W. R. Ayre  
E. R. Buzzing  
A. G. Coats, J.P.  
R. J. Davie, J.P., C.C.  
A. R. D. Hammond  
Mrs. F. F. Lamont  
Mrs. M. Pearce  
A. F. Standen, M.B.E.  
Mrs. E. Tiltman  
H. L. Wise

**Health Committee :**

*Chairman :*

R. J. Davie, J.P., C.C.

*Councillors :*

E. R. Buzzing  
Mrs. F. F. Lamont  
Mrs. E. M. Lifton  
Mrs. E. Tiltman  
J. G. Ward, J.P.

*Clerk to the Council :*

J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor

*Senior Sanitary Inspector :*

D. E. Jacob, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

*Additional Sanitary Inspector :*

D. G. Relph

Public Health Department,

Trinity Road,

Sheerness.

*To the Sheerness Urban District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Sheerness for the year 1954.

Both the Birth and Death Rates for the year were very similar to those recorded in 1953. The Crude Birth Rate was 17.4, almost the same as the year before when it was 17. The Corrected Rate, used for comparison with the rates of other districts, was 19.0 while the rate for England and Wales was 15.2.

The Crude Death rate was 11.7 (11.5 in 1953) and the Corrected Rate was 11.5. For England and Wales this rate was 11.3.

There was a decrease in the number of infants dying under the age of 1 year, 9 as against 12 in 1953 and this gives an Infant Death Rate of 32.7 per 1,000 live births which is slightly above the average. From averages taken over a period of years this rate shows a regular but slow decline. The rate for England and Wales was 25.5, a new low record.

One hundred and twenty-five cases of infectious diseases were notified and 107 of them were Whooping Cough, a very high figure indeed which has not been exceeded in the years this disease has been notifiable and more than twice the annual average incidence. Scarlet Fever was very low with only 6 cases, and Measles was almost entirely absent, while there has now been no Diphtheria in the district since 1919. No cases of Food Poisoning were notified although an outbreak starting at a Sheerness School Canteen caused some cases in Sheppey Rural District. Fortunately, prompt investigation discovered the cause and thus limited the outbreak to comparatively small proportions.

In pursuance of the Council's slum clearance programme a total of 15 houses were dealt with either by Clearance Orders, Demolition Orders or Closing Orders and 58 actual demolitions of old properties were carried out during the year.

I am sure that Dr. Hauxwell, who was your Medical Officer of Health for the whole of the year, would wish me to thank Mr. Jacob, your Senior Sanitary Inspector, for his co-operation and I should also like to express my thanks to him for his help in the preparation of this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY,

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION I

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

AREA	...	...	...	...	...	...	943 acres
------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----------

#### POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar-General for mid-1954	...	...	...	15,810
---	-----	-----	-----	--------

This figure is 460 less than the 1953 estimate but is 83 more than the 1951 Census.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	...	4,736
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RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	£114,516
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SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE	£454
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## SECTION II

### 1. BIRTHS

#### (a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate .....	131 (136)	127 (127)	258 (263)
Illegitimate .....	7 (6)	10 (13)	17 (19)
Totals .....	138 (142)	137 (140)	275 (282)

Illegitimate births were 6.2% of the total births as compared with 6.7% last year.

#### (b) Birth Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population .....	17.4 (17.1)
Corrected rate per 1,000 population ...	19.0 (18.5)
Rate for England and Wales .....	15.2 (15.0)

#### (c) Still Births

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate .....	1 (1)	1 (3)	2 (4)
Illegitimate .....	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)

The Still Birth percentage of the total (live and still) births was 0.7% as compared with 1.7% in 1953.

### 2. DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths from all causes in 1954 was 186, 2 less than in 1953. 112 were males and 74 females.

#### (b) Death Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population .....	11.7 (11.5)
Corrected rate per 1,000 population ...	11.5 (11.3)
Rate for England and Wales .....	11.3 (11.0)

(c) The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred :—

TABLE I

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
Males	5	-	1	2	1	5	9	19	32	32
Females	4	2	1	-	2	3	1	10	23	19

Figures in brackets relate to 1953



The average age at death was 63.7 years, being 63.5 for the males and 64.0 for females. In 1953 the averages were 63.1 for all deaths, 59.9 for males and 67.8 for females. The youngest male was 92 and the oldest female 89 years.

(d) The following table shows the number of deaths as located to the area by the Registrar-General and classified under the headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

TABLE II

Cause	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ..	4 ( 2)	— (—)	4 ( 2)
Tuberculosis, other .. ..	— (—)	— ( 2)	— ( 2)
Syphilitic disease .. ..	— ( 2)	1 (—)	1 ( 2)
Diphtheria .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Whooping Cough .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Meningococcal infections .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Acute poliomyelitis .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Measles .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	1 ( 2)	1 (—)	2 ( 2)
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ..	6 ( 4)	2 ( 4)	8 ( 8)
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	5 ( 6)	1 ( 1)	6 ( 7)
Malignant neoplasm, breast .. ..	— (—)	2 ( 1)	2 ( 1)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. ..	— (—)	— ( 2)	— ( 2)
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	14 ( 9)	11 ( 5)	25 (14)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. ..	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Diabetes .. ..	— ( 1)	3 (—)	3 ( 1)
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	11 (11)	13 (17)	24 (28)
Coronary disease, angina .. ..	15 (15)	5 ( 8)	20 (23)
Hypertension with heart disease .. ..	2 ( 1)	1 (—)	3 ( 1)
Other heart disease .. ..	15 (12)	12 (19)	27 (31)
Other circulatory disease .. ..	5 ( 5)	3 ( 2)	8 ( 7)
Influenza .. ..	— ( 1)	— ( 1)	— ( 2)
Pneumonia .. ..	— ( 2)	— ( 4)	— ( 6)
Bronchitis .. ..	5 ( 8)	1 ( 7)	6 (15)
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. ..	7 ( 1)	— (—)	7 ( 1)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. ..	— (—)	2 ( 1)	2 ( 1)
Nephritis and nephrosis .. ..	— (—)	— ( 1)	— ( 1)
Hyperplasia of prostate .. ..	3 (—)	— (—)	3 (—)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. ..	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)
Congenital malformations .. ..	2 ( 2)	1 (—)	3 ( 2)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	9 ( 8)	13 ( 8)	22 (16)
Motor vehicle accidents .. ..	1 ( 2)	— (—)	1 ( 2)
All other accidents .. ..	3 ( 6)	1 ( 2)	4 ( 8)
Suicide .. ..	2 ( 1)	— ( 1)	2 ( 2)
Homicide and operations of war .. ..	— ( 1)	— (—)	— ( 1)
All causes .. ..	112(102)	74 (86)	186(188)

### 3. INFANT MORTALITY

There were fewer deaths of infants under 1 year of age in 1954 than in 1953, 9 as compared with 12, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 32.7 per 1,000 live births. This is very slightly higher than the 10-year average which is 30.1. The rate for England and Wales was 25.5, the lowest ever recorded.

The following table gives details of the 9 deaths that occurred during 1954 :—

TABLE III

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of birth	Place of death
Hydrocephalus. Meningocele ..	M	3 months	Hospital	Home
Cerebral haemorrhage due to birth injury .. ..	M	2 days	Home	Home
Cerebral haemorrhage .. ..	F	30 mins.	Home	Home
Congenital heart disease ..	F	5 days	Home	Hospital
Congenital heart .. ..	M	2 days	Hospital	Hospital
Congenital heart .. ..	M	2 days	Hospital	Hospital
Atelectasis. Prematurity				
Osteogenesis Imperfecta ..	F	6 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Cardiac and respiratory failure.				
Improper development of centre in brain.				
Prematurity .. ..	M	3 days	Hospital	Hospital
Ac. laryngo-trachea bronchitis	F	6 months	Hospital	Hospital

## SECTION III

### INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. 125 cases of infectious disease were notified in 1954, 107 of these being Whooping Cough, a figure which unfortunately has the distinction of being the highest since the disease was made notifiable in 1940. The average number of cases over the past 10 years has been 47. On the other hand only 6 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and this the lowest figure since 1940 when the same number occurred.

Measles was almost entirely absent, only 3 cases, whilst no Diphtheria occurred for the sixth successive year.

Although no food poisoning cases were actually notified an outbreak due to staphylococcal infection at a Sheerness School Canteen was responsible for several cases in Sheppey Rural District. Fortunately those Sheerness children attacked suffered so mildly that in no case was medical attention called and all returned to School the following day. The cause of the outbreak was promptly discovered and the occurrence of further cases averted. I understand that no criticism could be levelled at the management of the Canteen which was excellent.

The following tables show details of the cases of infectious disease notified during the year :—

TABLE IV

Disease	Total	Total (1953)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1953)
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	6	(7)	4	2	-	-	(1)
Whooping Cough .. .. .	107	(32)	54	53	1	-	(1)
Diphtheria .. .. .	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(1)
Measles .. .. .	3	(34)	1	2	-	-	(1)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) .. .. .	4	(5)	3	1	-	-	(6)
Rubella .. .. .	2	(1)	-	2	-	-	(1)
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	1	(1)	-	1	1	-	(1)
Acute Poliomyelitis—Para .. .. .	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(1)
Non-Para .. .. .	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(1)
Acute Encephalitis—Infective .. .. .	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(1)
Post-infectious .. .. .	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(1)
Dysentery .. .. .	1	(1)	1	-	-	-	(1)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(1)
Interperal Pyrexia .. .. .	1	(2)	-	1	-	-	(1)
Smallpox .. .. .	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(1)
Typhoid .. .. .	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(1)
Malaria .. .. .	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(1)
Food Poisoning .. .. .	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(1)
Totals .. .. .	125	(82)	63	62	2	-	(6)

TABLE V

Disease	At all ages	Age groups							
		Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	6	-	-	1	4	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough .. ..	107	11	28	24	38	4	-	2	-
Measles .. .. .	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) .. .. .	4	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1
Erysipelas .. .. .	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery .. .. .	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals .. .. .	125	11	28	26	46	5	1	6	2

## 2. TUBERCULOSIS

Eleven new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and this figure is very slightly below the average. Four deaths were classified to this disease and although this was higher than the very low figure for 1953, namely 2, nevertheless it is again below average.

Two new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred but there were no deaths from this form of the disease.

Table VI gives details of new cases and deaths during the year, while Table VII give a summary of cases on the Tuberculosis Register.

TABLE VI

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 15 years .. ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 25 years .. ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 years .. ..	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 years .. ..	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 to 55 years .. ..	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55 to 65 years .. ..	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over .. ..	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals .. ..	7	4	2	-	4	-	-	-

TABLE VII

## SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January, 1954 ..	69	46	7	18	140
New notifications .. ..	7	4	2	-	13
Transfers from other districts ..	-	2	-	-	2
Deaths during year .. ..	4	-	-	-	4
Deaths of cases on Register but not due to Tuberculosis .. ..	-	-	-	-	-
Removed from district .. ..	1	-	-	-	1
Number of cases remaining on Register, 31st Dec., 1954 ..	71	52	9	18	150

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age.

TABLE VIII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1954	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1954	Total number Immunised at end of 1954
1954	33	—	33
1953	162	—	182
1952	22	—	206
1951	7	—	209
1950	2	15	268
1949	8	75	259
1948	2	18	201
1947	4	7	165
1946	—	6	130
1945	—	3	121
1944	1	3	121
1943	2	2	121
1942	—	—	110
1941	—	—	109
1940	—	1	112
Totals	243	130	2347

A large proportion of children born in 1954 would be of age for immunisation but the 5-year period from 1950 to 1953 shows approximately 86% of children immunised.

## 5. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during 1954 contained in the following table :—

TABLE IX

Age group	Primary Vaccinations	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 .. ..	109(106)	—
1 to 4 .. ..	59 (58)	3 (2)
5 to 14 .. ..	6 (7)	3 (4)
15 and over ..	35 (21)	20 (24)
Totals ..	209(192)	26 (30)



## SECTION IV

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### WATER SUPPLY

(a) The water supply is derived from two boreholes, one at Sheerness East and the other at Trinity Road, whilst an augmenting supply is purchased from the Sheppey Water Company. All the water is chlorinated before distribution. As in previous years it was not possible to maintain a 24-hour supply throughout the whole of the year.

Total consumption amounted to 143,230,760 gallons, giving a daily consumption of 24.8 gallons per head per day.

Pumped from Trinity Road ... ..	70,490,500
Pumped from Sheerness East ... ..	60,298,260
Purchased from Sheppey Water Co. ...	12,442,000

Approximately 95% of the houses in the town are supplied by mains direct, the remainder being supplied by and pipe.

(b) Thirty-seven samples were taken from the Trinity Road Supply for bacteriological examination. Of 12 untreated samples, 3 showed faecal contamination and 2 pre-mptive B.Coli. All 12 samples of treated water from the storage tank were satisfactory, while of 13 samples from domestic taps, 2 showed slight but not serious contamination.

Forty-three samples were also taken from the Sheerness East supply and of these, 12 untreated samples were satisfactory. One of 13 samples from the reservoir showed slight contamination, while of 14 from domestic taps, 3 showed slight and 1 faecal contamination.

In all cases of either slight or faecal contamination, follow-up samples revealed a satisfactory water.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage is collected at two main pumping stations. The main station deals with sewage from the Marine Town area, the newer parts of Mile Town and the new housing estates.



The sewage from these areas collects in a tide lock storage tank at West Minster, whence it flows out to sea by gravity at low tide or is pumped out at high tide. Sewage from Blue Town and the older part of Mile Town is collected at the West Minster pumping station and this is also pumped out to sea. Four subsidiary lifting stations are used throughout the town and the sewage is screened either at one of the lifting stations or at the main pumping station, but not otherwise treated.

The reconstruction of the West Minster pumping station was completed during the year and with its increased pumping capacity will be able to deal more efficiently with storm water which in the past has caused flooding in some areas of the town.

### 3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

The method of disposal of refuse has continued to be tipping into the watercourse known as Barton's Point Queenborough Lines at a point close to West Minster. The tip has been subject to intermittent fires and access to the tipping face has therefore at times been difficult, necessitating an extension of the tipping face with a consequent increase in the nuisance potential.

Baiting and poisoning for rodents has been carried out whenever evidence of infestation has been observed but only slight infestations occurred during the year and no complaints were received of the spread of rats to nearby premises. During the summer and autumn the tip is regularly treated with gammexane for fly prevention.

### 4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

All schools are on main drainage with efficient flushing apparatus. Cooking and washing up arrangements at the Schools' canteens are satisfactory.

### 5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

An outline proposal for the re-opening of the sea bathing station and public conveniences was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, but the suggested convenience in Blue Town has not been proceeded with as changed local circumstances make the need less immediate.

It has not yet been possible to procure an alternative site for the construction of a convenience to replace the existing one in Royal Road.

## PUBLIC BATHS

(a) Slipper Baths—Slipper bath facilities for both sexes exist at the Wood Street Baths (3 male and 3 female). These were used by an average of 59 men and 24 women per week during 1954.

(b) Open Air Swimming Pool—This is open from approximately Whitsuntide until September and during 1954 was used by about 34,000 persons as compared with 36,000 the year before. The highest number using this pool on one day was 785. The sea water at the pool is purified by continuous filtration and chlorination and nine samples taken for bacteriological examination showed excellent results.

## LETHAL CHAMBER FOR CATS AND DOGS

The lethal chamber maintained by the Council for the destruction of sick and aged animals was used extensively once again and 154 cats and 98 dogs were destroyed. Fifteen of the dogs were strays brought in by the police.

## CAMPING SITES

There are now three camping sites in the area. The site at Cheyney Rock accommodates 25 caravans, the Ravelin site 82 caravans, whilst the new site "Seabreeze," at Cheyney Rock is licensed to take 33 caravans. All the sites are on good drainage and have mains water supplies with adequate lavatories and washing facilities and weekly refuse collections. The camps were conducted satisfactorily and no complaints were received.

One person was prosecuted and fined for occupying an unlicensed caravan on land not licensed for the purpose in contravention of the Public Health Act.

## DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) Twenty premises were disinfected after infectious disease. Formalin is used at present for the disinfection of bedding and rooms as the Council's boiler has been condemned. Through the courtesy of the Captain Superin-

tendent of H.M. Dockyard the use of their disinfectors has been made available in cases of emergency and on one occasion this steam disinfectors was used.

(b) The following are details of premises disinfested

	Council houses		Other houses	
	No.	Rooms	No.	Rooms
Bed Bugs .....	2	3	11	20
Fleas .....	2	3	19	55
Cockroaches .....	12	—	2	—
Ants .....	2	—	3	—
Beetles .....	12	—	3	—
Moths .....	—	—	—	—
Carpet Beetles .....	2	—	—	—
Wood lice .....	—	—	2	—

The occurrence of swarms of small black flies during early summer gave rise to many complaints. It was discovered that the species was a common one (*dilophi febrilis*) and quite harmless and that probably the continuous cold weather had retarded the normal gradual emergence of the flies so that greater numbers than usual came out at the first warm spell.

## 10. MOSQUITO CONTROL

No serious complaints of mosquito nuisance were received during the year.

As in previous years the spraying of outbuildings, stables, piggeries, etc., likely to harbour insects during hibernation was carried out early in the year while ditches and water-courses received regular treatment with Malathion during the summer months.

Some further portions of ditches near new houses were piped and covered but the completion of more houses on the West Minster housing site in very close proximity to ditches makes the early piping in of these advisable.

## 11. RODENT CONTROL

(a) Surface infestations—The continued use of Warfarin has enabled infestations to be exterminated more readily than the old methods of poisoning. 74 infestations were dealt with, slightly fewer than in 1953. Of these 47 were for rats and 51 for mice. In addition, 47 premises were inspected and baited after notification by the householders.

suspected rats or mice and two block control schemes involving a total of 11 houses showed negative results.

(b) Sewers—Test baiting of sewers was continued and no treatments revealed only slight infestation. No new infestations were discovered on sections formerly reported clear.

## MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of the mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The operation of an Oil Refinery gave rise to complaints of malodorous vapours. The Chief Chemist was interviewed and on visiting the Refinery the principal source of the nuisance was traced. The Company are experimenting to devise methods of treating the vapours to minimise the nuisance. H.M. Inspector of Alkali, etc., Works has been consulted and reports progress in the steps being taken by the Company.

## INSPECTIONS, NUISANCES ABATED

Details of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors are shown in Appendix A and details of nuisances and defects remedied or abated are shown in Appendix B.

## SECTION V

### HOUSING

The following are details of the number of houses completed during 1954 and the total since the war :—

	During 1954	Total since end of war
Municipal houses—		
Temporary, completed .....	—	46
Permanent, completed .....	50	535
Permanent, under construction	57	—
Rate enterprise—		
Permanent, completed .....	5	28
Permanent, under construction	—	—

At the end of the year there were still 479 applicants on the Council's waiting list, 196 of these being in rooms and 283 in houses or flats. The housing position of persons without separate homes has eased considerably during the year and there are now very few such applicants living in conditions necessitating early rehousing. There still remain, however, the problem of persons occupying sub-standard houses and the making of further Slum Clearance Schemes is necessary and is urged by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

2. Further action on the Council's slum clearance programme was taken during the year and the West Street Clearance Order, 1954, was made early in the year and later confirmed after a Public Inquiry. This area comprised Nos. 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 West Street, Blue Town.

A Public Inquiry was also held on the Hope Street No. 2 Compulsory Purchase Order, 1954 (24 houses) and the Order was later confirmed while the Hope Street No. 2 C.P.O. 1954 (houses) was confirmed without objection. Representations for both of these C. P.O.'s were made in 1953.

The Montague Road Clearance Area was represented and declared a Compulsory Purchase Order and was awaiting confirmation at the end of the year. This area comprised Nos. 1, 3, 5 and 7 Montague Road, West Minster.

Towards the end of the year, inspections prior to representation of a further Clearance Area were being made.

3. Individual unfit houses—Demolition orders were made on the following houses :—

21, 23 Cross Street.

34 King Street, Blue Town.

32 Spring Garden Passage.

Closing Orders under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, were made on the following :—

89 Clyde Street, 179 Invicta Road, and 45 Rose Street.

4. The following are houses which were actually demolished during the year :—

Chapel Street : 10, 14 and 16 (included in Charles Street C.O. No. 1, 1953).

Charles Street : 1, 7, 9 and 11.



Charles Street : 29, 31, 33 (Charles Street C.O. No. 2, 1953).  
 Chapel Street : 43, 45, 47, 47A, 49, 51 and 57.  
 Bethel Passage : 11, 13 (Chapel Street C.O. No. 3, 1953).  
 Rose Street : 91, 93, 95, 95B, 97, 97A, 97B, 99, 101, 103, 105,  
 107, 109, 113 and 115 (Rose Street C.P.O. No. 2, 1952).  
 Russell Street : 61, 63, 65, 67, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87 and 89.  
 North Street Passage : 13 and 14 (included in Russell Street  
 C.P.O. No. 1, 1952).

Demolition Orders—Charles Street : 4, 35; Chapel Street :  
 12; High Street, Blue Town : 21.

Informal action—Rose Street : 49/51; Victory Street : 31, 33,  
 35, 37, 39; Railway Road : 10, 11.

Action taken by the Health Department in respect of  
 housing during the year is summarised below :—

Inspection of dwelling-houses during 1954 :

(i)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	285
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	367
(ii)	(a) Number of houses (included under (i) (a) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1926 and 1932 ... ..	78
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	169
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	78
(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (iii) found not to be in all respect reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	207

Remedy of defects during the year without service of  
 formal notice :

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ... ..	154
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C. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

- (i) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ..
- (ii) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
  - (a) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served ... ..
  - (b) Number in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice ... ..
- (iii) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
  - (a) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..
  - (b) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (including Orders made before 1954) ... ..
  - (c) Number of houses demolished by informal action ... ..
- (iv) Proceedings under Section 25 of Housing Act, 1936 :
  - (a) Number of houses in respect of which Clearance Orders approved ... ..
  - (b) Number of houses demolished as a result of Clearance Orders ... ..
- (v) Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936 (amended by Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953) ... ..

D. Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 :

- (i) Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair ... ..
- (ii) Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued ... ..
- (iii) Number of Certificates revoked ... ..



## SECTION VI

### FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION

#### FOOD BYELAWS, Etc.

The publicity given to food hygiene has made the public more aware of desirable food standards. Nevertheless, this is a matter which needs to be kept regularly before food handlers in order to improve on existing conditions.

#### MILK SUPPLY

There are no producers in the area but there is one pasteurising plant in operation. There are 31 registered dairies of the following designations :—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	5
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	2
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	28

Twenty-six samples of Pasteurised milk were taken during the year. All were satisfactory with the exception of two which failed to pass the phosphatase test. In both cases this test was satisfactory on resampling. No complaints were received from consumers during the year.

Twenty-four samples of Sterilised milk were taken and all satisfied the prescribed test.

#### ICE CREAM

Premises registered for manufacture	...	...	2
Premises registered for sale and storage	...	...	27

There were two new registrations for the sale of ice cream during the year. The majority of supplies are from manufacturers of national repute and are sold pre-packed.

Of 25 samples taken, 23 were Grade I, one was Grade II, and one Grade III.

#### INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(a) The handling and transport of meat has continued satisfactorily by regular contractors with vehicles equipped

for the purpose and there has been no evidence of loss through unsatisfactory handling.

(b) There are no slaughtering facilities in the district. When the Ministry of Food ceased to undertake slaughtering of animals, one application to use a slaughterhouse was not approved, the premises being considered unsuitable. Some butchers arrange for slaughtering of live stock at private slaughterhouses outside the district. Others obtain supplies through wholesalers.

(c) Condemned butchers' meat is collected by the Shropshire Glue and Chemical Works after treatment with naphthalene green. Other food, if suitable for animal feed, is added to the Council's kitchen waste collection, but if unsuitable is incinerated by the Council.

The following are details of food found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered :—

Fresh meat	290 lb.	Vegetables	47
Preserved meats	242 lb.	Cheese	24
	74 tins	Margarine	1
Chicken	20 lb.	Jams & Preserves	43 jars,
Turkey	1	Various frozen foods	345 lb.
Fish	35 stone	Frozen eggs	41
	58 tins	Miscellaneous confectionery	28
Milk	108 tins	Miscellaneous	7 lb.
Fruit	253 tins		14
	1 lb.		

## 5. FOOD PREMISES

(a) Sixty-one inspections were made of the following food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, or the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1939:

	No. Inspected	No. Satisfactory
Ice Cream, manufacture and sale	29	32
Preserved, etc., foods, manufacture and sale	21	23
Dairy	1	6

(b) Other food premises, by type of business, are shown below :—

Hotels, cafes, restaurants .....	26
Groceries, general provisions .....	79
Butchers' shops .....	13
Fish, wet .....	8
Fish, fried .....	9
Sweets manufacture .....	1
Meat pies manufacture .....	1
Greengrocery .....	19
Ships chandlers .....	1
Confectionery and sweets .....	13
Bakeries .....	3

203 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

## FISH FRYING

There are nine fish frying premises and all have operated satisfactorily.

## SHELLFISH

The collection and preparation for sale of shellfish locally has practically ceased.

## BAKEHOUSES

The three bakeries in the town have mechanical presses and bread wrapping machines. Some trouble through excessive greasing of machinery with a vegetable oil occurred in one bakery and caused dark streaks in a few loaves. As soon as the cause was traced the defect was quickly corrected.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am able to give details of samples taken under this Act in the Sheerness Urban District by courtesy of the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the Kent County Council :—

Cond Paste .....	1	Lemonade Powder .....	1
Aspirin Tablets .....	1	Lemon Flavour Pie	
Almond Kernels .....	1	Filling .....	1
Sodium Bicarbonate of Soda .....	1	Macaroni with Tomato	
Acid Lint, B.P.C. ....	1	Sauce and Cheese .....	1

Bread and Butter .....	1	Marmalade .....	
Bubble Gum .....	1	Milk .....	
Butter Scotch Bon-Bons .....	1	Milk Chocolate Bon-Bons .....	
Chest and Lung Tonic ...	1	Piccalilli .....	
Chicken and Ham		Processed Cheese .....	
Galantine .....	1	Pure Fresh Cream .....	
Concentrated Pepper-		Pure Lard .....	
mint .....	1	Raspberry Jam .....	
Condensed Milk .....	1	Rheumatic Tablets .....	
Cough and Cold Cure ...	1	Rock : pineapple flavour	
Dressed Crab .....	1	Salmon Spread .....	
Dried Apricots .....	1	Sal Volatile .....	
Garden Mint in Vinegar	1	Sausage .....	
Gin .....	2	Stewed Veal Steak .....	
Glucose Barley Sugar ...	1	Whisky .....	
Golden Raising Powder	1	Zinc and Castor Oil	
Ice Cream .....	1	Cream .....	
Irish Pork Sausages .....	1		

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following :—

Condensed Milk—Inferior. Total solids 72.1; Protein 10. Milk solids not fat 26.7%. Equivalent pints 1.81 (should be 1.875). Label unsatisfactory. Makers notified.

Gin—Adulterated. Contained 13.9% excess water. Proceedings taken. Justices granted an absolute discharge on payment of £2 6s. 0d. costs.

Milk—Inferior. 6.7% deficient in fat. Further sample taken and found to be satisfactory.

Milk—Inferior. 3.3% deficient in fat. Further sample taken and found to be satisfactory.

Rock : Pineapple Flavour—A single piece of glass weighing 1.54 grammes was found adherent to but not embedded in the sample of rock. No action.

Sal Volatile—Inferior. Free Ammonia 1.06%; Ammonium Carbonate 1.75%. (B.P. 2.76%-3.24%). Remaining sample withdrawn from sale.

## SECTION VII

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

#### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ..	6	3	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power) ..	42	27	3
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	4	3	—

#### 2. Cases in which defects found :—

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	1	1	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	—	1
Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective (S.7)	2	2	—	2

#### 3. Outwork

There are three outworkers in the district all making wearing apparel. No action was necessary under Sections 10 and 111.

## APPENDIX A

### VISITS AND RE-VISITS DURING 1954

Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bug infested houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Verminous houses (excluding bugs)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Filthy conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Drainage re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Factories and other premises under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Halls and places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Houses let-in-lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Public health interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Movable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Marine stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Refuse tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stables and piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Water sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mosquito control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inspections under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inspections under Housing Regulations, 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inspections in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inspections re Demolition Orders and Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inspections for overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous housing visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Re-housing interviews and investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Infectious disease investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meat shops and vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fishmongers and poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...



eries and milk shops	...	...	...	...	...	17
cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	32
staurants	...	...	...	...	...	26
od manufacturing premises	...	...	...	...	...	23
k sampling	...	...	...	...	...	50
Cream sampling	...	...	...	...	...	25
scellaneous food visits	...	...	...	...	...	38
oke, dust and fumes	...	...	...	...	...	25
scellaneous visits and interviews	...	...	...	...	...	132

## APPENDIX B

### NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED IN 1954

ufficient sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	10
ective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	21
inage repaired	...	...	...	...	9
inage cleansed	...	...	...	...	32
inage reconstructed	...	...	...	...	2
ks provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
te pipes repaired or trapped	...	...	...	...	5
n water pipes and eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	24
mpness remedied	...	...	...	...	40
fs repaired	...	...	...	...	37
ls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	36
rs repaired	...	...	...	...	19
dows and ventilation repaired and improved	...	...	...	...	13
places and stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	19
er supplies, defects remedied	...	...	...	...	9
d paving repaired	...	...	...	...	3
use receptacles provided	...	...	...	...	13
ke nuisance abated	...	...	...	...	2
umulations of refuse abated	...	...	...	...	18
ping of animals abated	...	...	...	...	5
ininous rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	85
rcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	54
ellaneous	...	...	...	...	30





# Sheppey Rural District Council

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**1954**

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*Chairman :*

F. H. Purvis, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman :*

Miss E. M. Mills, C.C.

*Councillors :*

H. A. Auty

R. N. Bigg

T. H. Dale

A. P. Dummott

Mrs. H. Faulkner

Mrs. Z. D. Hounsell

G. Ingleton

W/Cmr. W. E. James

A. Johnson, J.P. (died June, 1954)

Lt.-Col. G. A. Keir

H. C. Love

G. T. Parris

**Health Committee :**

*Chairman :*

Lt.-Col. G. A. Keir

*Councillors :*

H. A. Auty

Mrs. H. Faulkner

Mrs. Z. D. Hounsell

H. C. Love

F. H. Purvis, J.P.

*Clerk to the Council :*

S. B. Clarke

*Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :*

E. F. Brading, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

*Additional Sanitary Inspector :*

T. E. Davies

Public Health Department,  
Trinity Road,  
Sheernes

*To the Sheppey Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Sheppey Rural District during 1954.

For the first time since 1947 there was a rise in the crude Birth Rate. It had fallen regularly from 26.3 in that year to the very low figure of 13.3 in 1953 but rose to 14.3 in 1954. For purposes of comparison a corrected rate is used and that was 16.3 whereas for England and Wales it was 15.2.

The Crude Death Rate was higher than in 1953, being 11.4 as against 9.9, but the Corrected Rate of 10.3 was lower than that for England and Wales, namely 11.3.

The Infant Mortality Rate for the whole country has been breaking all records in recent years and 1954 established a new low record of 25.5 per 1,000 live births. The rate for Sheppey Rural District was 15.0 and whilst this rate is bound to fluctuate considerably in a small district, nevertheless it is very gratifying that over the past 10 years this rate has averaged only 26.1.

The majority of cases of infectious disease occurred were of Whooping Cough, a record number being notified but there were very few cases of Measles and Scarlet Fever and none of Diphtheria. The number of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was below the average after a very heavy incidence the previous year. The incidence of Food Poisoning throughout the country is causing grave concern and for the first time a number of cases occurred in the district which were all connected. Prompt action by the Health Department detected the cause of the outbreak and the number of cases was thus kept down to a reasonably small figure.

I am sure that Dr. Hauxwell would wish me to thank Mr. Brading, Surveyor, Engineer and Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. Davies, Additional Sanitary Inspector, for their co-operation and help during the year, and I also would like to thank them for their assistance in compiling this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY,

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION I

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,319 acres
------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--------------

Population as estimated by the Registrar-General for mid-1954	...	...	...	9,300
---	-----	-----	-----	-------

This figure is 99 higher than the estimate for 1953. The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths during the year, was 27.

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	3,312
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-------

This is an increase of 85 over 1953.

Rateable value	...	...	...	...	£54,764
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---------

Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	£226 8s. 6d.
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## SECTION II

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### 1. BIRTHS

##### (a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	67 (57)	56 (54)	123 (111)
Illegitimate ...	3 (7)	7 (4)	10 (11)
Totals .....	70 (64)	63 (58)	133 (122)

The total number of births was 11 (9.0%) more than in 1953 and 7.5% were illegitimate.

##### (b) Birth Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population .....	14.3 (13.3)
Corrected rate .....	16.3 (15.2)
Rate for England and Wales .....	15.2 (15.2)

The continuous fall of the birth rate since 1947 was halted during 1954 and rose from 13.3 to 14.3. The Corrected rate, used for comparison with similar rates of other districts, was 16.3, which was higher than the rate of 15.2 for England and Wales.

##### (c) Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	4 (3)	1 (1)	5 (4)
Illegitimate .....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Still births were 3.6% of the total live and still births compared with 3.2% last year.

#### 2. DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths during 1954 was 100, which 65 were males and 41 females. In 1953 the corresponding figures were—total 91, males 58, females 33.

##### (b) Death Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population .....	11.4 (10.0)
Corrected rate .....	10.3 (9.0)
Rate for England and Wales .....	11.3 (10.0)

The Death rate for 1954 was higher than in 1953 but the corrected rate was lower than that for England and Wales.

(c) The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred :—

Figures in brackets relate to 1953

TABLE I

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 years and over
s	1	-	1	1	-	1	6	11	26	12	6
les	1	-	-	-	1	2	3	4	9	16	5

The average age at death was 67.2 years, being 65.2 for males and 70.3 for females. The averages for 1953 were—all deaths—66.7; males—65.2; females—69.6.

The oldest person dying was a female of 92, although no males and another female all reached the age of 90.

(d) The following Table II shows the number of deaths allocated to the area by the Registrar-General and classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death.

TABLE II

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ..	1 (—)	— (2)	1 (—)
2 Tuberculosis, other .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
3 Syphilitic disease .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
4 Diphtheria .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
5 Whooping Cough .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
6 Meningococcal infections .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
7 Acute poliomyelitis .. ..	— (1)	— (—)	— (1)
8 Measles .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ..	3 (3)	2 (—)	5 (3)
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	6 (5)	1 (1)	7 (6)
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast .. ..	— (—)	— (1)	— (1)
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. ..	— (—)	— (1)	— (1)
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3 (2)	6 (5)	9 (7)
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
16 Diabetes .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	4 (7)	7 (5)	11 (12)
18 Coronary disease, angina .. ..	10 (5)	4 (2)	14 (7)
19 Hypertension with heart disease ..	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)
20 Other heart disease .. ..	15 (10)	15 (7)	30 (17)
21 Other circulatory disease .. ..	2 (4)	— (1)	2 (5)
22 Influenza .. ..	— (—)	— (1)	— (1)
23 Pneumonia .. ..	4 (4)	3 (1)	7 (5)
24 Bronchitis .. ..	3 (4)	— (—)	3 (4)
25 Other diseases of respiratory system ..	— (3)	— (—)	— (3)
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	2 (1)	— (—)	2 (1)
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
28 Nephritis and nephrosis .. ..	— (1)	— (—)	— (1)
29 Hyperplasia of prostate .. ..	3 (1)	— (—)	3 (1)
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
31 Congenital malformations .. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	4 (4)	2 (4)	6 (8)
33 Motor vehicle accidents .. ..	— (1)	— (—)	— (1)
34 All other accidents .. ..	3 (1)	— (—)	3 (1)
35 Suicide .. ..	1 (—)	— (1)	1 (—)
36 Homicide and operations of war ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
All causes .. ..	65 (58)	41 (33)	106 (91)

### 3. INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 2, the lowest number recorded since 1945. Both were illegitimate children.

The Infant Mortality rate was 15.0 per 1,000 live births and the average rate over the past 10 years has been 15.0, which is a very satisfactory figure. The rate for England and Wales in 1954 was 25.5, the lowest ever recorded.



Details of the deaths are given in the following table :—

TABLE III

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Bacterial Pneumonia Congenital Morbus Cordis Asphyxiation due to Ingestion of foodstuffs	F	3 months	Hospital	Hospital
	M	2 months	Hospital	Hospital

### SECTION III

#### INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

Of the 171 cases of infectious disease notified, 115 were cases of Whooping Cough; this is the highest incidence of this disease since it was made notifiable in 1940 and is more than twice the average over the past ten years.

Scarlet Fever was below the average with only 5 cases, all of them mild. Measles was almost entirely absent but there was a small epidemic in 1953 this was to be expected. No Diphtheria occurred and there have now been no cases in the district since 1948.

Fourteen cases of Food Poisoning occurred, 5 of these being due to unidentified cause. One outbreak accounted for the other 9 cases and these followed the mid-day meal at the Canteen of a Sheerness School. Of a total of 422 pupils and staff partaking of the meal, 33 suffered from the effects of Food Poisoning but in only 9 of the cases was medical attention called in. One case was admitted to Poppy General Hospital owing to his collapsed condition but recovered within 24 hours. In some cases the symptoms were so slight that the children were able to attend school the following day. The source of the outbreak was traced to an assistant cook who had an old burn on her right hand which had become septic and caused a staphylococcal infection. She was immediately suspended until the condition had cleared up.

The total cases notified, the number admitted to hospital and the total deaths from each disease as shown in the Registrar-General's classification of deaths are given in Table IV below :—

TABLE IV

Disease	Total	Total (1953)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1953)
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	5	(9)	3	2	3	—	(—)
Whooping Cough .. .. .	115	(29)	55	60	2	—	(—)
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	(—)	—	—	—	—	(—)
Measles .. .. .	6	(115)	4	2	—	—	(—)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) .. .. .	10	(9)	6	4	—	7	(—)
Erysipelas .. .. .	5	(1)	2	3	1	—	(—)
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	1	(—)	1	—	1	—	(—)
Acute Poliomyelitis—Para. .. .. .	—	(1)	—	—	—	—	(—)
Non-Para .. .. .	—	(—)	—	—	—	—	(—)
Acute Encephalitis—Infective .. .. .	—	(—)	—	—	—	—	(—)
Post-infectious .. .. .	—	(—)	—	—	—	—	(—)
Dysentery .. .. .	—	(—)	—	—	—	—	(—)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	2	(—)	1	1	1	—	(—)
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	13	(2)	—	13	13	—	(—)
Smallpox .. .. .	—	(—)	—	—	—	—	(—)
Typhoid .. .. .	—	(—)	—	—	—	—	(—)
Malaria .. .. .	—	(—)	—	—	—	—	(—)
Food Poisoning .. .. .	14	(—)	10	4	1	—	(—)
Totals .. .. .	171	(166)	82	89	22	7	(—)

Table V shows the age distribution of cases of infectious disease notified during 1954.

TABLE V

Disease	At all ages	Age groups								
		Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over
Measles .. .. .	5	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough .. .. .	115	12	16	32	52	3	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	6	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-
Infantile Pneumonia (primary or secondary) .. .. .	10	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	3	5
Diphtheria .. .. .	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	1
Staphylococcal Infection .. .. .	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Epidemic Typhus .. .. .	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Septic Pyrexia .. .. .	13	-	-	-	-	-	6	7	-	-
Food Poisoning .. .. .	14	-	-	-	1	7	1	3	2	-
Totals .. .. .	171	14	18	36	62	10	7	12	6	6

## TUBERCULOSIS

Five cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified as compared with 17 the previous year and an average of 8.6 cases per year over the past ten years. Only 1 death occurred from this disease during the year.

No new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and no deaths occurred from this form of Tuberculosis.

Table VI gives particulars of new cases and deaths during 1954, while Table VII shows a summary of cases on the Tuberculosis Register.

TABLE VI

Ages	New Cases				Deaths		
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Under 1 year .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 15 years .. ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 25 years .. ..	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 years .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 years .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55 years .. ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 years .. ..	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 and over .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals .. ..	4	1	-	-	1	-	-

TABLE VII  
SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January, 1954 ..	42	37	14	11	104
New notifications .. ..	4	1	-	-	5
Transfers from other districts ..	-	1	-	-	1
Deaths during year .. ..	1	-	-	-	1
Deaths of cases on Register but not due to Tuberculosis .. ..	2	-	-	-	2
Number of cases remaining on Register, 31st Dec., 1954 ..	43	39	14	11	107

#### 4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age.

TABLE VIII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1954	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1954	Total number Immunised at end of 1954
1954	15	—	15
1953	84	—	97
1952	3	—	99
1951	2	—	127
1950	1	2	116
1949	3	27	131
1948	—	13	118
1947	—	9	99
1946	—	1	100
1945	—	3	107
1944	—	1	80
1943	—	1	91
1942	1	—	64
1941	—	1	74
1940	—	—	78
Totals	109	58	1396

A large proportion of children born in 1954 would not be of age for immunisation but the 5-year period from 1949 to 1953 shows approximately 80% of children immunised.

#### VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during the year contained in the following table :—

TABLE IX

Age group	Primary Vaccinations	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 ..	47 (46)	— (—)
1 to 4 ..	31 (49)	— (2)
5 to 14 ..	2 (4)	3 (10)
15 and over ..	11 (16)	14 (25)
Totals ..	91 (115)	17 (37)

## SECTION IV

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) The area is supplied from three bores belonging to the Sheppey Water Company and one belonging to the Ru District Council. The Council also have a second bore Leysdown as a standby and this was operated for two months early in the year whilst the Warden bore was out of action and for a further six weeks in the summer to augment supply in the Leysdown and Warden areas. Sheppey General Hospital has its own bore.

During the year the following quantities were pumped :—

Sheppey R.D.C. :

Warden Springs Pumping Station ...	10,150,000 gallons
Leysdown Pumping Station .....	1,898,510 gallons

Sheppey Water Company also supplied 110,000 gallons to the above areas.

Sheppey Water Company :

Wallend Waterworks .....	49,269,000 gallons
Eastchurch Pumping Station .....	25,908,000 gallons
Minster Pumping Station .....	23,335,000 gallons

Of this total of 98,512,000 gallons pumped by the Sheppey Water Company, nearly 13 million were supplied to Sheerness Urban District.

(b) Twenty-one samples were taken from the Warden Supply for bacteriological examination, 15 of them being treated waters. All were satisfactory with the exception of 1 treated sample and 2 untreated samples which showed very slight but not serious contamination.

Fifteen samples of water were also taken from the Leysdown Supply, 10 of them being chlorinated waters. One of the treated samples showed contamination but the following samples were satisfactory.



(c) Forty-five samples of treated water were taken from Sheppey Water Company's Supply at various points on distribution service and no serious contamination was covered in any.

(d) Supervision of wells supplying farms and cottages outlying districts continued during the year and 7 samples of untreated water were taken in this connection.

(e) The number of houses supplied, with the source and method of distribution was as follows :—

	From public supplies		Private or communal wells	
	Tap in house	Standpipe	No. of wells	No. of houses
Minster ...	2,497	—	—	—
St. Andrew's church	428	25	1	1
St. John's ...	135	—	—	—
St. Andrew's down	229	—	2	70*
St. Andrew's ...	—	—	5	15
St. Andrew's ...	1	—	—	—

These are mainly bungalows and chalets at Shellness Hamlet used as summer residences only and also beach chalets along Shellness beach.

In addition, all camping sites are supplied with water from public mains.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) The following statement shows in summary form the method of sewage disposal throughout the district :—

Parish	Number of properties, including camps		
	Main drainage	Cesspools	Pail closets
Minster .....	2456	40	85
St. Andrew's church .....	173	187	170
St. Andrew's down .....	106	123	71
St. Andrew's ... ..	—	132	19
St. Andrew's & Harty .....	—	24	20

(b) At Minster only about 5% of the houses are not on main drainage and progress is still being maintained in the provision of pail closets. Sewage from the area is collected and carried to the Scrapsgate or Sheerness East Disposal Works,

the effluent is discharged into a ditch which goes direct into the sea.

The premises in the parish of Eastchurch are fairly equally divided between those on main drainage, cesspools and pail closets. The sewage from main drainage is dealt with at the Eastchurch Disposal Works and is ultimately piped to Windmill Creek.

For Warden and Leysdown, main drainage is available for only about one-fifth of the premises and these are all Leysdown. As these areas are the main centres for holiday camps it is hoped that the construction of the Council's main drainage scheme, already approved in principle, will very soon be commenced.

### 3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on land adjacent to the Scrapsgate Disposal Works. The tip is systematically treated for the suppression of rats and flies.

### 4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

All schools in the area are on main drainage and general sanitary conditions have been found satisfactory.

### 5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public conveniences for both sexes exist at Halfway Scrapsgate, Minster, Eastchurch and Leysdown. Washing facilities are also available in the conveniences at Leysdown and Scrapsgate.

### 6. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) Nine premises were disinfected after infectious disease.

(b) The following disinfestations were carried out during the year :—

				Council houses	Other houses
Bed bugs	...	...	...	—	1
Fleas	...	...	...	1	2
Flies	...	...	...	—	1
Wasps	...	...	...	—	2

Seventeen chalets at one holiday camp were sprayed with an insecticide at the end of the season at the proprietor's request.

## MOSQUITO CONTROL

The usual practice of spraying cowsheds and pigsties with D.D.T. in early spring and accumulations of water and drains near houses with Malariol during the spring and summer was again carried out. No serious nuisances were reported.

## RODENT CONTROL

One full-time operator is employed and the following details of surface infestations found and treated during the year :—

Infestations treated by Local Authority .....	205
Infestations treated by occupier .....	—
Farm surveys .....	124
Farms treated .....	47
Number of survey visits .....	538
Number of treatment visits .....	1231

A test-baiting of the sewers was carried out during 1954 at the request of the Divisional Rodent Officer and no infestations were found.

The infestation of a small orchard by short-tailed field mice was reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for their advice and help, but although this particular infestation was successfully dealt with, small numbers of this pest have since been reported elsewhere.

## CAMPING SITES

The following are details of the camping sites in the year :—

	Sites	Dwellings
Occupied sites and dwellings actually accommodated ... ..	33	2050
Approved sites not yet developed ... ..	5	195
Number of camps with mains water supplies ... ..	33	2050
Number of camps connected to main drainage ... ..	8	845
Camps with own disposal works ... ..	1	120
Camps served by cesspools ... ..	19	832
Camps served by pail closets ... ..	5	253

The situation with regard to the camps is similar to year. Nineteen camps are served by cesspools and 5 camps by pail closets.

In any camp, but especially in holiday camps, there should be a constant plentiful supply of pure water for washing and cooking. Anything tending to curtail the use of water is to be deprecated.

There must also be ample means of proper disposal of the waste water. If facilities are not readily available for disposal of sullage by means of trapped gullies, there will inevitably be a nuisance from smells and flies.

Flies are known vectors in the spread of enteric dysentery and poliomyelitis germs and would seriously endanger the health of the community.

The only efficient water carriage system for camps of this nature in my opinion is provision of main drains with many trapped gullies interspersed between the channels leading to properly constructed sewage disposal works.

## 10. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

## 11. INSPECTIONS, NUISANCES ABATED

Details of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector are shown in Appendix A and details of nuisances and defects remedied or abated in Appendix B.

## SECTION V

### HOUSING

The following are details of the number of houses built during 1954 and the total since the war :—

	Minster	Leysdown	Warden	Eastchurch	Total
Council houses—					
Completed in 1954 ...	28	7	—	4	39
Completed since the war :					
Permanent .....	252	13	—	26	291
Temporary .....	26	—	—	6	32
Under construction	12	1	—	8	21
Private enterprise—					
Completed in 1954 ...	36	2	1	1	40
Completed since the war .....	158	6	2	6	172
Under construction	25	5	1	2	33

Of the 39 houses completed by the Council, 32 were 1-B.R. flats, and 7 3-B.R. houses, whilst all the 21 under construction were 3-B.R. houses.

The number of applicants on the Council's waiting list at the end of the year was 213, 73 of these living in rooms and 140 in houses or flats.

(a) One small Clearance Order was made by the Council in respect of 3 houses—Billet Cottages, shop and premises (Eastchurch).

(b) Demolition Orders under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, were made in respect of :—

(i) 5, Station Road, Eastchurch.

(ii) Union Cottage, Minster.

(c) The following houses were demolished during the year :—

(i) Earls Cottages, Eastchurch (3)—Clearance Order.

(ii) 1 Union Cottage, Minster—Demolition Order.

(iii) Neats Court Cottages (3)—Informal action.

4. Action taken by the Health Department in respect housing during the year is summarised below :—

(A)—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

- 1 (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts ... ..
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose
- 2 Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..
- 3 Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (2) ) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..

(B)—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE FORMAL NOTICE

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ... ..

(C)—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

- 1 Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ..
- 2 Proceedings under Public Health Acts ...
- 3 Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
  - (a) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..
  - (b) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (including Orders made before 1954) ... ..
  - (c) Number of houses demolished by informal action ... ..



4	Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(a)	Number of houses in respect of which clearance orders approved ... ..	3
(b)	Number of houses demolished as a result of Clearance Orders (before 1954) ... ..	3
)—HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954		
1	Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair ... ..	12
2	Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued ...	10
3	Number of Certificates revoked ... ..	Nil

## SECTION VI

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### MILK SUPPLY

There are 8 distributors of milk in the district retailing following designations :—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	2
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	2
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	5
Non-designated	...	...	...	...	1

Eight samples of Pasteurised and 5 of Sterilised milk were taken during the year and all passed the prescribed laboratory tests.

#### ICE CREAM

Forty-four premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream, an increase of 12 over the previous year. One manufacturer is also registered. Six samples taken were all reported Grade I.

### 3. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The following items of food were found unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered :—

Beef	...	...	...	...	45 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	8 stone
Corned beef	...	...	...	...	6 tins
Fruit (tinned)	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Preserves	...	...	...	...	2½ lbs.
Eggs	...	...	...	...	4 crates

Condemned meat is stained with naphthalene green and disposed of on the Scrapsgate refuse tip.

### 4. FOOD PREMISES

(a) Eighty inspections were made of the following food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, or the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 :—

	Premises	Inspections
Ice Cream, manufacture and sale ...	45	59
Preserved foods, manufacture and sale ...	1	8
Dairies ...	1	13

(b) Other food premises by type of business are shown below :—

	Number
Butchers ...	7
Fishmongers ...	7
Cafes and restaurants ...	21
Confectionery ...	4
Tea rooms ...	3
General stores, including greengrocery ...	45

140 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

### 5. FRIED FISH SHOPS

There are five fish frying establishments and all are satisfactory. Two mobile vans also operate during the summer.

## SHELLFISH

There is no commercial collection of shellfish from the  
 eshore.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Weights and  
 Measures Department of the County Council for the follow-  
 details of samples taken in the area during the year :—

Swroot .....	1	Ground Almonds .....	1
ble Gum .....	1	Herbal Tablets .....	1
e Mix .....	1	Macaroni .....	1
erara .....	1	Marzipan .....	2
t Salad in Syrup .....	1	Milk .....	15
Cream Milk .....	1	Mincemeat .....	1
ocolate .....	1	Manilla & Strawberry	
.....	2	Ice Cream .....	1
erine and Honey .....	1		

All of the above samples were genuine with the excep-  
 of :—

ipan—Inferior. Sugar 74.2; Almonds 20%. Manu-  
 acturers notified. Question of a standard under con-  
 sideration.

Milk—Inferior. 5.0% deficient in fat.

—Inferior. 10% deficient in fat. No action. Further  
 samples to be obtained.

## SECTION VII

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notice
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ..	10	15	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Author- ity (mechanical power) ..	4	5	—
Other premises in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	3	4	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.—Nil.

3. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work	No. of outworkers	Action Sections 110
Making of wearing apparel ...	1	Nil

## APPENDIX A

### VISITS AND RE-VISITS DURING 1954

accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
akehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
ug infested houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
erminous houses (excluding bugs)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
lthy conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
ffective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
ffective drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
ainage re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
actories and other premises under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
lls and places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
uses let-in-lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
ublic health interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
ivable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	713
rine stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
olic conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
ts and mice	...	...	1270 incl. 39 (by S.I. only)	...	...	...	3
use collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
use tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
ools	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
ps	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
bles and piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
eping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
imming pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
er sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
er supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
ercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
quito control	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
age	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
ections under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
ections under Housing Regulations, 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
ections in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
ections re Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
ections for overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
ellaneous housing visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
ousing interviews and investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
etious disease investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
fections	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
shops and vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
mongers and poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
l fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
ers	...	...	...	...	...	...	

Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	9
Dairies and milk shops	...	...	...	...	13
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	59
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	28
Food manufacturing premises	...	...	...	...	—
Milk sampling	...	...	...	...	13
Ice Cream sampling	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous food visits	...	...	...	...	37
Smoke, dust and fumes	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous visits and interviews	...	...	...	...	73
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	Nil
Inspections under Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	...	...	...	...	16
Effluent samples	...	...	...	...	4

## APPENDIX B

### NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED IN 1954

Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	5
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	12
Drainage cleansed	...	...	...	91
Drainage reconstructed	...	...	...	21
Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...	1
Rain water pipes and eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	2
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	5
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	12
Floors repaired	...	...	...	3
Windows and ventilation repaired and improved	...	...	...	8
Fireplaces and stoves repaired	...	...	...	4
Refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...	16
Accumulations of refuse abated	...	...	...	3
Keeping of animals abated	...	...	...	4
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	...	24
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	15